MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question No. 206. Abent.

*206. [*The questioners (Shri Parvathaneni Upendra) was absent. For answers,* vide *cols.* 39-40 infra].

PROTOCOL WITH USSR REGARDING TELECOMMUNICATION TRAFFIC TRANSIT

*207. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed a protocol with U.S.S.R. for providing telecommunication traffic transit to some third countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has signed a protocol and a programme of co-operation with the USSR.

In the programme of co-operation, both the countries have agreed to render assistance in providing telecommunication traffic transit to some third counries. The possibility of establishing automatic transit of telephone calls between India and some third countries via the U.S.S.R. as well as between the U.S.S.R. and some third countries via India would be considered.

(b) This is an enabling provision. No concrete proposals have been finalised.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, this agreement is welcome. I would like the Minister to tell us which are the third countries which are likely to benefit from this.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the protocol has been signed and third countries have not been identified. But prohability is there of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia Philippines and Singapore and also from the other side of Poland, Czechoslavakia, Hungary, Romania; Yogoslavia, East Germany and Albania, provided those countries do request USSR or India. Both the USSR and India should be agreeable to give it. It is subject to future discussions.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, what action plans are envisaged for extending telecommunication facilities for industrial projects by the end of the current year? And part (b) of my question is, whether under this protocol technical and economic cooperation aspects of tele-communition development will be studied by means of satellite communication; if so, what measures have been taken in this direction.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, it is a fact that those industries which are in India with U.S.S.R collaboration are also subject-matter of this protocol for giving tele-communication facilities an in the protocol we have also identified improved satellite telecommunication between India and U.S.S.R. Nothing has been finalized. The protocol has been signed and in future discussions in those areas, technologies will be identified.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question... (*Interruption*).

Refusal of Foreign Students in the Aligarh Muslim University to Undergo Aids Test

*208. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foerign students of the Aligarh Muslim University have recently refused to undergo AIDS test; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative the total strength of foreign students at the Aligarh Muslim University who have ungerdone the AIDS test; and

(c) whether Government propose to insist on the AIDS test to foreign students

†The question was actually asked on the flour of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

before granting them admission into the country; and if not, what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) According to the the Aligarh Muslim University authorities, representaitves of foreign students had objected to AIDS Screening test on the ground that such tests, which were made applicable only to foreign students, were both discriminatory and illogical.

(b) So far 18 foreign students at Aligarh Muslim University have undergone the AIDS screening tests.

(c) This is under the considerition of Government.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I understand the concern of the Government regarding this menace of AIDS which is posing a threat to the wholeworld more than a nuclear bomb. But the students, particularly the African* students, throughout that country have expressed their resentment saying that they are subjected to social boycott and harassment and mental torture and agony at which they have expressed their protest and demonstrated. The other day the honourable Minister stated that not only the African* students but the non-African* students also are subjected to such test. Even after the clarification of the Minister, the students who demonstrated have again demanded that they should not be subjected to such test. Sir, this has created resentment among the African countries also. This has appeared in the press. So I would like to know from the Minister what steps he will take to erase such resentment from the minds of the African* students.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have made it categorically clear that there is no question of discrimination. This is a decision taken at the national level in the interest of the country, in the interest of everyone concerned. We would like to stick to it in a non-discriminatory fashion so far as the students are concerned. In fact this House actually expressed its concern and said, "Why do you confine to students along? Who don't you also include tourists?", to which I had to reply, that it is not being done in other counries, so far; we are monitoring what is being done in other countries. We are now convinced that more and more and more countries are taking these steps. I have a long list of the countries. Every day the list is being added to, it is not subtracted from. It is not becoming shorter; it is becoming longer. This being the position, there is no justification for any resentment, there is no justification for any agitation. The only question which was posed and which is under very active consideration is whether in view of the impending examination we could postpone the tests to a date after the examinations. This is under active consideration. So far as next year is concerned, what we have decided is that admission and this testing will go side by side and the moment one is found positive admission will not be given. So there is no problem at all. There will be no problem either for him or for us. This is the position. Once we take the decision we will have to enforce that decision. There is no point in taking a decision in a matter concerning human life and not enforcing. We are quite clear that this should be done. More and more countries are doing it. I would appeal to everyone including the students who are exercised over the matter, that there is nothing to be exercised about and there is no justification for thinking that only some of them are discriminated against. It so happens that students from a particular continent happen to be in a larger number here and, naturally, the number of tests also would be larger. But no one is going to be left out or is being left out.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I would like to mention about the questions raised by the hon. Member that recently on 27th February 1987 a three-member delegation of African students called on me and handed over a memorandum which was addressed to the Prime Minister. It was stated in the memorandum that the Government directive had discriminated as it had excluded Indian students, ordinary Indian citizens, foreign

*Substituted as ordered by the Chair.

diplomats and their families and refugees. The memordandm is being examined.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir; it is unfortunate that *African students have described it as another kind of apartheid. The hon. Minister stated the other day that foreign tourists would not be subjected to such tests because the duration of their stay is only for a short time. Sir, the opinion of medical experts has clearly established that even foreign tourists had they been infected already by the AIDS, pose every danger of spreading the disease in the country. So, I want to know whether the Minister will take into account this aspect also.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr. Gopalsamy has now swung to the other extreme. I have already said that there have been ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The students themselves have mentioned this regarding foreign tourists.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Chairman is it necessary to use that word several times? Why do you not say the names of the countries? It is not an honourable thing for us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: It is highly objectionable.

SHRI P. V. NARASIHMA RAO: I have not said it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will read all the questions and answers, and I will substitute "African" for that word.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: For comparison sake he has been using that word.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. You leave it to me. I will substitute "African" for it in all the questions and answers.

SHRI P. V. NARASIHMA RAO: With your permission, I would like to tell Mr. Gopalsamy that we are closely monitoring what is being done in other countries. We have to be in step with the whole world. We cannot be out of step with the whole world. It so happens that in several countries in the case of tourists they have not made it so stringent. Now they are trying to make it stringent by saying that only a tourist who wants to stay for more than a month or more than six months or more than three months will undergo the test. The tourists are slowly being approached, slowly being covered. We are closely monitoring that aspect also.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, वैज्ञानिक तौर पर तो इस तरह की जांच करना उचित ही है और यह सब के इन्टरेस्ट में है, इन छात्रों के भी, हमारे भी तथा तमाम लोगों के। लेकिन इस काम को अच्छे ढंग से किया जा सकें, इसके लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करूंगा कि डिफरेन्ट कन्ट्रीज में जो भी भारतीय दुतावास हैं वे उनसे सम्पर्क स्थापित करके उनका गुडविल लें और तब इस काम को करें। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसमें क्या सरकार को कोई एतराज होगा?

श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव : जी हां, हम विदेश मंत्रालय से यह विनती करेंगे।

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Sir, does the Government think that the AIDS will come only from the students of Africa? Even students from India are going abroad to the States and other European countries. Will the Government monitor those who are coming from abroad also?

Secondly, Sir; so far how many students from Africa have been detected having this AIDS disease and how many have been deported because I recently heard that three students from* were deported. The experts found that they were not... ....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name of the country will go off of record.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: After conduting tests on some students of the African countries it was found that the testing conducted in India was very faulty. Sir, even some time before there was a news in the newspapers...

*Substituted as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kadharsha, you have asked enough questions. I will go to the next question, No. 209.

SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Let the Minister reply. Then you go to another question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. I do not want that you should unnecessarily acerbate feelings on this matter. I do not think that the question needs an answer. I go to the next question No. 209.

*209. [*The qutstioner (Shri Basudeb Mohapatra) was absent. For answer*, vide *cols.* 40 infra]

Government Scheme on Eye Donation

*210. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government to encourage eye donation pledges by the people;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated to motivate the Government employees, the employees of the Public sector Undertakings and the workers of other organised sectors to pledge their eyes for donation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPRADE): (a) to (c) Radio and Television media network is being utilised to educate the people and to create awareness among them about the need for eye donation. Government employees like general public are also included in this programme.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: My specific question was with regard to the Government employees, employees of the public sector undertakings and other workers of the organised sector. I am aware that these categories of people are included in the general public, and if there is a programme for general public, it is meant for them also. That is not the thrust of the question. The thrust of the question was: has there been any motivational programme or scheme formulated by the Government in order to motivate these different sections of the population?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Rest of the answer would have to be that we have not made a special programme for Government employees. We have made a programme for everyone in this country. Therefore, we thought there is no need for any special groups to be approached in this. In fact, Government employees are even more motivated than the common people. So, if there is any need for motivation, it is for the ignorant people, people in the villages, who do not know that this could be done, rather than the Government employees who already know almost everything about it.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Is the Government satisfied that a problem of this proportion could be immediately met by creating radio and TV media network? Are they also thinking in terms of creating certain incentive schemes for those who would like to pledge their eyes for the future?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: At the movement we do not have any national incentive scheme. We have to appeal to the people. If one agrees to donate his eye it is something which is to take place after a long time. So, it is not possible to build incentives into this. But, if there are any specific suggestions by hon. Members I am prepared to consider them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: One distinction that the eye donation has from other types of donations is that the actual donation is made after the death. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what has been the experience in this regard, particularly regarding the objections raised by the heirs of the deceased and other family members when actually the eyes have to be taekn out.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This may be happening in some cases. I don't say it has not happened, but the point is